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EDUCATION WEEK

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Native-Language Instruction Found To Aid L.E.P.'s

E.D. Study May Bolster Case for Bilingual Ed.

By Julie A. Miller

WASHINGTON—Children who are taught partly in their native language spend no more time in special classes than children taught primarily in English, are somewhat more likely to be reclassified as proficient in English, and receive more parental support, a long-awaited Education Department study on bilingual education has concluded.

The $4.4-million study, which was launched in 1983 by an Administration widely viewed as hostile to native-language instruction, apparently will bolster the position of bilingual-education advocates, observers of the field predict.

No findings have yet been officially published. But highlights of one section of the study were presented to a National Academy of Sciences panel on Oct. 12; that summary was obtained by *Education Week*.

The Education Department has asked the N.A.S. to convene an expert panel to review the methodology of the controversial "immersion study," as well as that of a second study on the same topic.

The second study, which was released last spring, focused on determining what services were being offered to limited-English-proficient students, and concluded that their placement often was not based on their educational needs. *(See Education Week, May 2, 1990.)*

The immersion study was designed to compare instructional techniques by examining about 4,000 L.E.P. students—mostly Spanish speakers—enrolled in "late exit" bilingual programs, which aim for a gradual introduction to English; "early exit" bilingual programs, which generally use more English and are intended as short-term efforts; and "immersion" programs, in

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Money Is the Education Issue in Gubernatorial Races

By Harrison Donnelly

As the nation's 36 gubernatorial campaigns enter their final week, the debate over education has boiled down in almost every state to just one issue—money.

With the economy hovering on the brink of a recession that could have a potentially devastating fiscal impact on state governments, few candidates are finding much political mileage this year in proposing costly new initiatives for the schools.

Indeed, in campaigns where education has become an important issue, it is frequently over how the state can to pay for current programs, rather than over starting others.

"The economy is overshadowing everything," said Chris Pipho, director of state relations for the Education Commission of the States. "The threat we see coming is that the states are going to reallocate existing resources rather than provide new ones."

The heightened fiscal concerns also are evident in the large number of proposed tax- and spending-limitations on state ballots, at least some of which appear headed for victory in next week's voting. *(See story, page 12.)*

ELECTION **90**

The low status of education as an issue this year—compared with such subjects as taxes, crime, or abortion—and the relatively modest proposals of most candidates is in marked contrast with several election cycles during the 1980's.

In the past decade, education often was seen by observers as the dominant issue in governors' races, and a number of candidates were able to galvanize voter support with bold proposals to raise teacher pay and improve student achievement.

Today, candidates making such promises for the schools must also contend with the delicate question of who is to pay.

Perhaps the emblematic election for education in 1990 is in Illinois, where the governorship is vacant for the first time in 14 years. To the consternation of many educators in the state, a Democrat has gained considerable ground on the Republican front-runner by promising to end an income-tax surcharge that provides more than $350 million a year for the schools.

To be sure, education reform has not entirely slipped from the electoral agenda. In Tennessee, for example, the Democratic incumbent is expected to cruise to an easy re-election while developing a

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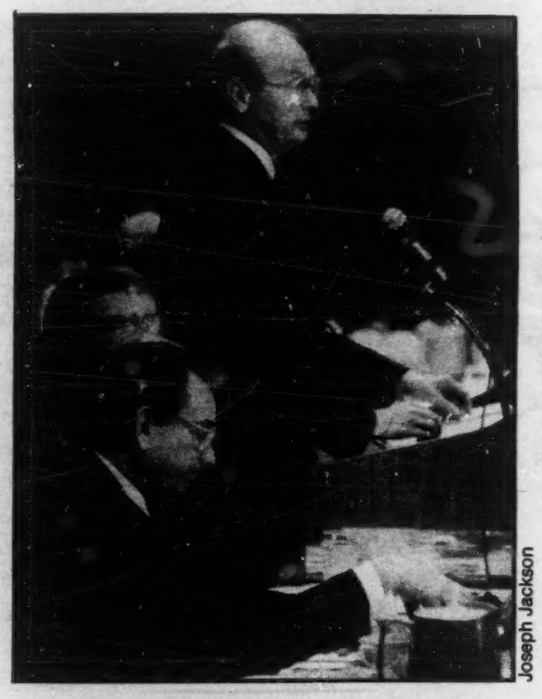

Joseph Jackson

Speaker of the Assembly Thomas A. Loftus, at the podium, is seeking to unseat Wisconsin's Republican Governor, Tommy G. Thompson, seated.

Controversial Education Proposals Give Wis. Governor Extra Edge

By Peter Schmidt

MADISON, WIS.—Gov. Tommy G. Thompson stood in his office and described himself as "cautious" about his prospects for re-election, but the knowing grin on his face betrayed far more confidence.

Statewide polls suggest that the conservative Republican Governor is nearly as likely to win next week's election in progressive-to-liberal Wisconsin as winter is to follow on the tails of the southbound Canadian geese that fill the skies of this lakeside capital city.

Mr. Thompson's controversial education proposals have earned him national attention and the enmity of many state educators.

In this fall's campaign, though, the Governor's efforts to curb welfare payments to the families of school truants and dropouts and provide private-school vouchers for inner-city students have been almost exclusively to his political advantage.

So, too, have his clashes with the powerful Wisconsin Education Association Council, which aides say have only added to his popular image as a leader willing to "take on the education establishment."

Mr. Thompson's Democratic foe, Speaker of the Assembly Thomas A. Loftus, is a veteran legislator with a comprehensive program for attacking the state's other burning education issue, soaring property taxes for the schools. But even his backers concede that the odds are long.

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Project Provides Boston Youths a '13th Year' at Boarding Schools

By Mark Walsh

NORTH BRIDGTON, ME.—For Mauricio Vasquez, it is a long way from Boston's tough Dorchester neighborhood to the tranquility of rural Maine.

But for the 18-year-old graduate of South Boston High School, there are high hopes that a one-year detour at the private Bridgton Academy here will pave the way to a successful college career.

Mr. Vasquez says he is not suited to the quiet lifestyle in this tiny hamlet an hour's drive from the nearest city, Portland, and more than three hours from Boston.

"Come May 18, I won't think much about coming back to Maine," he says. But he admits that the atmosphere is conducive to studying, and says he has already urged a friend in Boston to apply for the same program he will complete on that day next spring.

That program is the Bostonian Project, an unusual partnership between the Boston school district and a number of independent boarding schools throughout New England.

Mauricio Vasquez and 15 other recent graduates of the city's pub-

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Wayne Rivet

Mauricio Vasquez is hoping that one year at the private Bridgton Academy will pave the way to a successful college career.

Also in the news

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A federal judge has struck down Georgia's drug-testing policy for applicants for public-school and state jobs.

7 **Someone To Talk To**
Programs that train students to act as "peer counselors" are growing in popularity, mental-health experts say.

20 **Budget Saga, Cont.**
The Congress was poised last week to act on a bill that would raise E.D. spending by $2.7 billion over FY 1990.

IN SUMMARY

No Sweet Deal
A Roman Catholic elementary school in one of the poorest sections of Philadelphia is struggling to stay afloat this year after a divisive battle over students' candy sales last year. **Page 5.**

Paying Parents
Foiled in their repeated attempts to draw parents to school, the principal and staff at a Milwaukee elementary school are trying a new enticement: paying parents to attend school workshops. **Page 5.**

Changing Careers
To help meet the national shortage of math and science teachers, two Massachusetts-based technology firms are operating programs that enable their employees to changes careers. **Page 8.**

Southern Strategy
Declaring the South "the nation's least educated region," 13 Southern states and Puerto Rico last week announced plans for a partnership to upgrade the basic skills of adults in the region. **Page 12.**

Tax Revolt Redux
Initiatives to limit taxes or government spending are on the ballot in 10 states next month, a sign of growing voter dissatisfaction with policymakers, experts say. **Page 12.**

Senate Races Eyed
Education groups are watching the electoral prospects of Senators Pell, Harkin, and Simon, all of whom play leading roles in setting Capitol Hill's education agenda. **Page 21.**

Mother and Child
Participants in the federal nutrition program for low-income women and children had lower medical costs for mother and child and better birthweights, a new study says. **Page 22.**

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ACROSS THE NATION

STATES

Mass. Welfare Program Leads to Jobs, Better Wages, Report Says

Participants in Massachusetts' Employment and Training program spend less time on welfare, are more often employed, and earn better wages than their peers not in the program, according to a new study.

The program, launched in 1983, provides basic education, job training, child care, and other services to help participants become self-sufficient. The evaluation of the program released by the Washington-based Urban Institute focused on the program's operations in 1987.

The authors found that in 1986 and the first six months of 1987, program participants received Aid to Families with Dependent Children for an average of 10 months, four months shorter on average than members of a control group.

They also found that the average monthly A.F.D.C. grant for participants was about 8 percent, or $26, lower in the last six months of 1987.

In addition, the study showed that 6 to 30 months after joining the program, 44 percent of participants were employed, compared with 36 percent of those not in the program.

Participants also had average earnings that were 32 percent higher over the first six months of 1988 than were those of members of the control group.

The researchers found, however, that the program had no "statistically significant effect on the rate at which former recipients return to welfare," a finding they said might have been different had the follow-up period been longer.

The study noted that remedial-education activities appeared to extend participants' welfare stays in the short run. However, the study data indicate that those who found jobs after participating in such activities tended to remain employed longer than nonparticipants.

The study's relatively positive rating of the program runs counter to a study published last spring by the Boston-based Pioneer Institute for Public-Policy Research, which concluded that many participants in the program during the 1980's would have found jobs even without the program's assistance.

■ **Georgia's standardized tests for public-school students should be shortened and broadened beyond basic skills into more advanced and varied subjects,** an 18-month study has concluded.

The changes called for would give a broader, truer picture of school performance while allowing students to spend fewer hours each year taking standardized tests, say members of the task force that conducted the study.

The task-force plan calls for ending the requirement that students pass a skills test to enter 4th grade. Shorter national reading and mathematics tests would replace lengthy norm-referenced tests, and new state tests would cover a host of subjects, including science, social studies, math, and health.

The proposals are scheduled to go before the state board of education next month for approval. Because existing examinations were legislated, a change would require new laws, which could slow implementation, said Stan Bernknopf, director of the division of assessment at the state education department.

If approved, new testing procedures would begin next school year, Mr. Bernknopf said.

DISTRICTS

Pennsylvania District's 1986 Strike Unconstitutional, State Court Rules

A state judge has ruled that teacher strikes are illegal in Pennsylvania, arguably the leading teacher-strike state in the nation, because they deny students their constitutional right to a "thorough and efficient" education.

The ruling, handed down this month, stems from a six-week strike by the North Penn Education Association in 1986. The judge ruled that even though the school district held classes on holidays and extended the calendar into the summer in an attempt to make up work, the strike days deprived students of a quality education, said Frank L. Caiola, a lawyer for the plaintiffs.

Four sets of parents had filed suit in Montgomery County, seeking to overturn the 1970 law that grants striking privileges to public employees on the grounds that it conflicted with the "thorough and efficient" constitutional mandate.

Another suit challenging the right-to-strike law was argued before the state supreme court last month. "It will [likely] make the issue in North Penn moot," said George Badner, assistant director of communications for the Pennsylvania State Education Association.

■ **A handicapped California youth who could not attend his high-school prom because it was held in a shopping mall with no access for the disabled has been awarded $25,000** in a settlement approved this month by a federal court.

Scott Brammeier, who has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair, had sought $3 million in damages in his lawsuit against the Mount Diablo Unified School District, the state department of education, and the Crocker Galleria, the downtown San Francisco mall where the prom was held in 1988.

As part of the settlement, state education officials are also required to advise public schools across the state of their obligation to uphold state and federal laws guaranteeing access for the disabled for school events taking place both on and off their campuses.

■ **A federal appeals court has found that a school district in rural Virginia discriminated against black applicants as a result of hiring practices based on nepotism and favoritism.**

In a decision handed down this month, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit upheld a lower-court finding that the Washington County school district had not intentionally discriminated against a black job applicant. Citing obstacles to black employment, the panel, however, ordered the district to institute a selection process that includes widely advertising jobs and prohibits giving preference to employees' relatives.

Patricia Thomas, a Washington County native who graduated cum laude from Emory and Henry College, sued her former school district on the grounds that she was denied teaching posts because she was black. Ms. Thomas had been bypassed for social-studies positions in part, the district argued, because she had failed to check a box on her application indicating she was certified. The information was, however, in her cover letter and résumé.

The district, which has hired one black teacher since it was desegregated in 1963, hired 46 employees' relatives during the past three years, according to Bernard Via, the plaintiff's lawyer.

■ **Boys and Girls High School in Brooklyn last week became the first public high school in New York City to have a dress code as its 12th-grade boys began wearing dress shirts and ties to class.**

Senior boys will wear such garb each Friday to set an example, and by February all male students will wear light-colored shirts and ties under the new code devised by the school's principal, Frank Mickens.

Because it is a public school, the code must be voluntary, but Mr. Mickens said he was confident all students would comply because of already-overwhelming parental and peer support.

A dress code for girls is under consideration, Mr. Mickens said. The principal has in the past banned excessive jewelry and expensive shearling and leather coats

Cartoon Couture

Having insinuated themselves onto every article of children's clothing imaginable, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Bart Simpson have done the seemingly unimaginable: They're showing up on "designer yarmulkes."

And they're not alone: "Sesame Street" favorites Bert and Ernie have come along for the ride.

Is nothing sacred?

Traditionally observant Jewish men and boys generally wear the skullcaps at all times, and they are required at many Jewish day schools.

The designer versions, which cost about $20, first appeared on the heads of boys 10 and under three years ago, says Sandy S. Gruenberg, director of the learning center at Solomon Schechter School, a Jewish day school in White Plains, N.Y.

"They are more popular now than when they first came out," says Ms. Gruenberg. "About half of my students wear them."

The yarmulkes are made of leather and painted with the fad of the moment by artists who, because they are violating federal copyright laws protecting the characters, take care not to sign their work.

Favorite styles in Ms. Gruenberg's class include the teenage terrapins and the logos of the New York professional sports teams. Whatever is au courant shows up.

"I've seen Bart Simpson caps just as I have seen Batman ones before," she says.

Some observers say the cartoon caps of today are a fad similar to the colorful knitted and crocheted yarmulkes many boys sported in the early 1970's. —V.L.J.

among the school's 3,800 students.

Donations of shirts and ties for students who cannot afford them have been pouring in from companies and individuals, many of whom have no connection to the school, Mr. Mickens said.

While he does not expect the code necessarily to improve the academic performance of the largely disadvantaged minority youngsters, Mr. Mickens said, he does believe it will foster self-esteem.

■ **The parents of two students in the Lubbock, Tex., schools have obtained a temporary restraining order forbidding the district to enforce its dress code because they say it discriminates against their sons.**

Michael Buckberry, an 11-year-old 5th grader who wears his hair in a "rat tail" style, and Yacatico Kelley, a 15-year-old Native American whose hair hangs below his shoulders, had been kept from regular classes for several weeks because their hair styles violated a newly revised dress code, said their lawyer, J. Edwin Price.

The boys returned to school Oct. 18 after a state judge issued the restraining order preventing the district from enforcing the code, Mr. Price said.

The boys' parents have filed suit in the same court against the district, claiming that the dress code violates the 1972 Equal Rights Amendment to the Texas constitution by inflicting sex-based discrimination on boys.

The judge in the case is scheduled to decide at a Nov. 8 hearing whether to make the injunction permanent, according to Mr. Price.

■ **Six varsity football players are among 10 high-school students in Charlotte, Mich., charged in a string of break-ins that netted $10,000 in property and cash,** according to local police.

The suspects range from sophomores to seniors at Charlotte High School, said Lieut. Kent Ruesch of the Eaton County sheriff's department. A former student at the school has also been charged.

Two of the players charged have already been suspended from the team, which is enjoying its best season in 30 years, and the remaining four are awaiting school action, Lieutenant Ruesch said.

The 11 youths have each been charged with between one and five counts of breaking and entering, a felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison, Lieutenant Ruesch said. They are accused of taking stereos, videocassette recorders, guns, cash, and jewelry in eight home and business break-ins over the last 10 months in the county of 90,000 near Lansing, according to the officer.

One of the current Charlotte students was the ringleader, who was able to recruit the rest because "they didn't want to look like wimps," the officer said.

DIMENSIONS

State Public-School Enrollments

California had the largest public-school enrollment of all the states in the fall of 1989, with more than 4.7 million students, according to data compiled by the National Education Association.

Texas, New York, Illinois, and Florida round out the list of the five states with the largest enrollments last fall, according to the data.

California experienced a 3.3 percent increase in the number of students over the previous year, maintaining its number-one ranking.

Two states—Nevada and Florida—had greater increases during the period. Nevada, ranked 40th in size with 186,800 students, experienced a 5.8 percent increase, and Florida, ranked 5th overall, recorded a 4 percent increase.

Other states with increases of at least 2 percent were Alaska (3.4 percent), Arizona (2.9 percent), Washington (2.4 percent), and Oregon (2.3 percent). The national average was 0.8 percent, the report said.

The state with the smallest enrollment was Vermont, with 94,779, a 1.5 percent increase over fall 1988. The District of Columbia, which enrolled 81,301 students in its public schools, experienced a loss of 4.7 percent, the largest recorded, according to the report. Other states with losses of at least 1 percent were West Virginia (2.3 percent), Kentucky (1.1 percent), and Louisiana (1 percent).

Copies of the report, "Rankings of the States, 1990," are available from the N.E.A. Professional Library, P.O. Box 509, West Haven, Conn. 06516.

Public - School Enrollment, Fall 1989.

1.	California	4,771,978	11.	New Jersey	1,076,005
2.	Texas	3,316,785	12.	Virginia	985,031
3.	New York	2,565,841	13.	Indiana	955,611
4.	Illinois	1,797,355	14.	Tennessee	828,688
5.	Florida	1,789,944	15.	Massachusetts	825,579
6.	Ohio	1,764,500	16.	Washington	810,232
7.	Pennsylvania	1,655,271	17.	Missouri	807,934
8.	Michigan	1,566,030	18.	Wisconsin	782,905
9.	Georgia	1,126,535	19.	Louisiana	775,300
10.	North Carolina	1,078,153	20.	Minnesota	739,553

Source: NEA Research, *Estimates* data bank.

UPDATE

■ **A federal judge has rejected a request by the Cleveland Board of Education to declare the district "unitary," or desegregated, and end court jurisdiction over it.**

In an Oct. 18 order, U.S. District Judge Frank J. Battisti said the school district's request "contributes nothing at this time and, by its terms, is contradictory, redundant, and premature."

The proceedings stem from a 1973 case involving the racial balance of the city's schools. In 1976, Judge Battisti ordered remedial efforts to achieve desegregation.

Last July, the judge told the Cleveland office on school monitoring and community relations, the agency reviewing the case, to report by Feb. 1, 1991, on the district's progress.

The board, in its Sept. 14 motion, asked the court "to recognize the tremendous strides made by all parties, and indeed this community, in desegregating the Cleveland school system." *(See Education Week, Sept. 26, 1990.)*

"The time is now for the school district to be declared unitary and for this court to relinquish its continuing jurisdiction and supervision," the board claimed.

But the judge stated that in light of his July order, "the timing and substance of the present motion are puzzling."

■ **Officials at the University of California at Los Angeles have abandoned a controversial proposal to turn the university's renowned laboratory school over to a local school district.**

Rather than move the school to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, school officials have decided to keep the facility on the university campus, where plans are under way to expand the school and redefine its research mission.

Harry Handler, a former superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, has been named interim director of the school, formally known as the Corinne A. Seeds University Laboratory School.

The proposal to link the lab school to a public school system had been vigorously protested by the parents of children enrolled there. *(See Education Week, Jan. 17, 1990.)* They argued that the move would rob the 107-year-old institution of much of its "uniqueness and sensitivity."

But JoAnn Carlson, a spokesman for U.C.L.A.'s graduate school of education, which oversees the school, said the plan was abandoned because university officials learned that they would be unable to obtain waivers to operate the school free from some state regulations.

"We decided the best thing to do was to keep it on campus and keep control over it," she said.

■ **A mathematics teacher in Dallas who was at the center of a grading controversy at Carter High School was unfairly disciplined by the district,** a Texas Education Agency official has ruled.

In fall 1988, the Carter football team's eligibility was challenged under the state's "no-pass, no-play" law because of the grades a star player received in Wilfred Bates's algebra II class. *(See Education Week, Nov. 30, 1988.)* The team later won a state title.

The district placed Mr. Bates on probation, froze his salary, and gave him an unsatisfactory job evaluation for the 1988-89 school year for his role in the controversy.

In her ruling, Victoria Bergin, the state's deputy commissioner for curriculum and professional development, ordered the district to remove the probation from Mr. Bates's record and to re-evaluate his performance.

MILESTONES

■ **Paul W. Bell**, superintendent of the Dade County, Fla., public schools, died Oct. 16 at a Miami hospital of a heart arrhythmia. He was 57.

The 31-year veteran of the nation's fourth-largest district succeeded Joseph A. Fernandez when he became New York City's school chancellor at the end of 1989. "Paul Bell devoted his life to education and to children," Mr. Fernandez said in a statement. "I know Paul will be missed by the Dade County schools, the city of Miami, and the entire education community."

Mr. Bell, who had a history of heart problems, including two bypass operations, had a cardiac seizure on the way to his doctor's office the day before he died.

A tribute to Mr. Bell was held at Miami Senior High School the day after his death. Tee S. Greer Jr., the deputy superintendent who assumed Mr. Bell's duties, ordered all American flags at district schools to fly at half-staff for the remainder of the week.

PEOPLE

■ **Thomas K. Gilhool**, the former Pennsylvania secretary of education turned public-school teacher, has left teaching to resume his law practice.

Mr. Gilhool's appointment to a teaching position at an inner-city Philadelphia school last November was steeped in controversy. He held no teaching credentials at the time and was given the test separately from other candidates. The district's superintendent of schools, Constance E. Clayton, said he received no special treatment.

In an interview with the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Mr. Gilhool said his $25,000 salary was too low and that he was frustrated with bureaucratic rules facing teachers and with the drug and other problems of his students.

■ **Bill Cosby** has ordered the removal of a mural from the opening credits of "The Cosby Show" because of a dispute with a children's group over creative credit.

The mural, which was shown for five episodes of the current season, was inspired by a work created by the Creative Arts Workshop for Homeless Children, a Harlem-based organization.

Producers for the situation comedy said in a statement that they created a new mural because the Creative Arts Workshop was "unprepared to obtain necessary legal clearance" for use of their work, entitled "Street of Dreams."

"We had originally asked only for credit," said Vivian Polak, a lawyer for the workshop. "All the kids were ready to sign releases."

Ms. Polak said the producers then wanted commercial and distribution rights to the mural. "If they want to use it worldwide, we want a contribution to the children's education," she said.

After three weeks of unsuccessful negotiations between the workshop and the Cosby program's producers, the mural was pulled from the program.

"I am deeply disappointed," Mr. Cosby said in a statement. "This would have been something that for another 10 years they [the children] could have pointed to with pride in that this was something they inspired."

■ **Peter K. Mitchell Jr.** has been named executive director of the International Reading Association.

Since 1982 he has been an official with the International Federation of Free Teachers' Unions, based in Amsterdam. He also was on the staff of the American Federation of Teachers and taught secondary school.

Mr. Mitchell's three-year term begins Jan. 1.

Correction

An item in the "Teachers" column in the Oct. 10 issue incorrectly reported that during a recent strike in Yakima, Wash., the school district aired videotapes of teachers giving lectures on a local-access cable-television channel. Actually, the tapes were of administrators.